THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have sponsored studies from time to time in respect of issues related to land reforms. However, no post-distribution survey of assignees of ceiling surplus land have been conducted to assess the benefits of such distribution of land.

(c) Land being a State subject monitoring and evaluation of implementation of land reforms programme is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India have as advisory and supportive role.

Increased outlay for Rural Development

729. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether thre is any proposal to increase outlay for rural development programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) and (b) The outlay for rural development for the Eighth Five Year Plan is Rs. 30.000 crore. The original outlay for rural development for the Seventh Five Year Plan was Rs. 6179.21 crore, and the actual expenditure was Rs. 10,955.96 crore. Thus the outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan is 174% more than the actual expenditure during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

High Power Committee to Review State Market Acts and Working of Agricultural Marketing Bodies

730. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply the Unstarred Question No. 4819, given in the Rajya Sabha on 20-8-1992 and state :

(a) whether the High Power Committee set up by Government to review the present State Market Acts and working of various Agricultural Marketing Bodies and to recommend appropriate measures for strengthening the set up for marketing of agricultural produce, has since gone into the suggestions made by the ASSOCHAM;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) The High Power Committee is yet to submit its final report.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Target for Conversion of Wastelands into Cultivatable Land

731. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Wastelands Development Board constituted by Government did not achieve its target of converting more arable lands into cultivable lands;

(b) what is the total extent of Wastelands in the country; and

(c) what is the target fixed by Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan for land conversion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH) :

(a) The National Wastelands Development Board was established in May, 1985 with a mandate to undertake development of wastelands through massive programme of afforestation and tree planting with people's participation for achieving the following goals :

(i) checking land degradation;

(ii) to put wastelands to sustainable use;